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United Nations

Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

Sixteenth session (4 February 2010)

General Assembly

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Chapter I

Decisions adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its sixteenth session

1. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation adopted the following decisions at its sixteenth session:

Decision 16/1
Action needed for the implementation of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 33/134 of December 1978, in which the General Assembly endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,[1]

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which the General Assembly endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi, from 1 to 3 December 2009,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation held in Nairobi, from 1 to 3 December 2009,[2]

1. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by various United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes to establish, within their respective mandates, new units and work programmes to support and promote South-South cooperation;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the support of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and in consultation with Member States, to prepare a specific framework of operational guidelines for relevant United Nations organizations and agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, for the implementation of the Nairobi outcome document,[3] for consideration and approval by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its one-day intersessional meeting to be held in 2011 at least three months after the circulation of the draft specific framework to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of the Joint Inspection Unit review report;

3. *Requests*, in this regard, the Joint Inspection Unit to review the existing United Nations institutional arrangements in support of South-South and triangular cooperation and to make recommendations in order to facilitate the preparation of the specific framework by the Secretary-General;

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

[2] A/64/504.

[3] A/CONF.215/1.

4. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report on the implementation of the present decision to the High-Level Committee at its seventeenth session.

Decision 16/2
Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its sixteenth session,

Approves the following provisional agenda for its seventeenth session, to be held in 2012:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation and the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.
3. Actions arising from previous sessions of the High-level Committee, notably at its sixteenth session in 2010.
4. Consideration of reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:
   (a) Implementation of the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;
   (b) Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of South-South cooperation.
5. Thematic discussion (theme to be decided on the basis of consultations that will be undertaken with Member States by the Bureau of the High-level Committee).
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.
7. Approval of the provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the High-level Committee.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its seventeenth session.

Chapter II
High-level plenary segment

A. Opening of the session

2. At the 1st meeting, on 4 February 2010, the President of the sixteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, opened the session and made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the President of the General Assembly.

4. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)[4] and the representative of Qatar in his capacity as former President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

B. Introduction of the report on implementation

5. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 4 February 2010, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation considered item 2 of its agenda.

6. The Director of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation introduced the report of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/CONF.215/2).

C. Discussion

7. During the general debate of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, delegations reviewed the state of South-South cooperation with a view to implementing the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document (A/CONF.215/1), which was endorsed by Member States at the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation on 3 December 2009 and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009.

8. The key themes to emerge from the debate were the value placed on South-South efforts within international cooperation for development and the principles, characteristics and priority areas of South-South cooperation.

9. As the economic prospects of the South have risen, so have the vitality and strength of cooperation among developing countries. A number of delegations highlighted a significant increase in the recognition of the contribution of South-South cooperation to development among Member States and throughout the United Nations system since the last session of the High-level Committee (29 May-1 June 2007). Some 30 years after the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, countries were realizing the fruits of South-South cooperation, which had evolved from a limited exchange of technical expertise to become a significant tool for development. South-South cooperation was seen to contribute towards national

[4] See http://content.undp.org/go/newsroom.

well-being, self-sufficiency and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Those encouraging trends served as a reminder that the value of Southern solutions was only just beginning to be recognized.

10. On the whole, countries of the South had achieved significant development gains over recent decades owed in part to South-South and triangular efforts. Some delegations emphasized the critical role of North-South and triangular cooperation in supporting South-South cooperation towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and sustainable development. Developing countries noted their appreciation for the role of developed countries in triangular arrangements and urged developed-country partners to fulfil their promises of support. Although such support was an important component of development success, some countries suggested the need to work towards the elimination of developing-country dependency on North-South cooperation, without undermining its benefits, in order for developing countries to become more self-reliant.

11. In looking at progress in South-South cooperation and the prospects for fulfilling the commitments set forth in the Nairobi outcome document, delegations emphasized national ownership, equality, mutual respect, national sovereignty, mutual benefit, non-conditionality and solidarity as the guiding principles of South-South cooperation. Solidarity was stressed for its capacity to foster greater social inclusion without a loss of sovereignty. Some delegations suggested the need for a better understanding of these concepts in order to increase the effectiveness of South-South cooperation and engage other partners and stakeholders.

12. The unique characteristics distinguishing South-South cooperation from traditional forms of development assistance were noted, including the difference between donor-receiver relations and relationships in South-South cooperation. In this context, some delegations voiced concern about diminishing equality and non-conditionality in some recent South-South efforts and called for stronger adherence to the principles of South-South cooperation. A number of Member States stressed the point that South-South endeavours were not meant to be a substitute for North-South cooperation but instead should complement North-South support.

13. Further to this point, Member States emphasized that South-South cooperation was not and should not be viewed as aid, but as an expression of solidarity based on true partnership for the purpose of mutual development.

14. Some delegations were of the view that the principles of aid effectiveness were at odds with the principles of South-South cooperation and interfered with achieving the goals set forth in the Nairobi outcome document. Some Member States expressed the belief that it was possible to achieve consensus on the principles of South-South cooperation while also following an agenda of aid effectiveness. Others pressed for ending attempts to put conditionalities on South-South cooperation in the tradition of official development assistance, calling those attempts futile and unproductive.

15. In the areas of trade and finance, Member States noted the centrality of South-South cooperation in confronting the challenges faced by developing countries in ensuring full participation in international economic relations. It was widely agreed that South-South cooperation was a vital means of attracting trade and investment

flows while also promoting increased international financial and technical cooperation.

16. Despite the gains achieved through trade, investment and finance, delegations noted the deepening economic asymmetries among developing countries, particularly in regard to the least developed countries and landlocked developing countries. The debate brought to light the fact that the current financial, food and energy crises had exacerbated the vulnerabilities of the countries that lacked the capacity to withstand shocks. Thus, participants stressed that South-South cooperation should be given priority in the United Nations system to facilitate the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in accordance with the Brussels and Almaty Programmes of Action. Apart from contributing to the achievement of those goals, South-South initiatives were seen as a viable means of decreasing the asymmetries and technical gaps among developing countries, including knowledge gaps.

17. Building and sustaining capacity and mobilizing joint programmes of action among developing countries constituted key challenges in the South. Thus, delegations pointed to the importance of capacity-building among developing countries as a focus area for South-South efforts in order to meet their myriad development needs. Towards this end, some Member States stressed the need to build on the synergies and complementarities among countries of the South in critical areas such as trade, investment, services, and information and communication technologies.

18. In the light of the recent financial, food, energy and climate-change crises, a number of delegations noted that the collective impact of those challenges had diminished the gains achieved by countries in past decades and further threatened the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. South-South cooperation had played a pivotal role in assisting developing countries to face those challenges and Member States pledged their continued support for South-South and triangular efforts. Despite that pledge by many Member States, some delegations expressed concern about a lack of political will in supporting developing countries as they worked to solve the current financial crisis.

19. Member States also addressed the topic of the modalities for implementing South-South and triangular efforts, calling for the prioritization of South-South cooperation in their national strategies. Further, it was recommended that countries strengthen their collective efforts to increase not only the quantity of financial resources, but also the quality, efficiency and impact of all forms of cooperation.

20. Noting that the sharing and exchange of experience were key to South-South efforts, delegations called for all development actors to support improved measures for data collection, coordination, dissemination and evaluation of South-South cooperation. The dissemination of results, the sharing of lessons learned and good practices, and the replication of experiences were encouraged as means of increasing the effectiveness of South-South cooperation for the benefit of all developing countries. Those proposals emphasized improvement in accountability and transparency as necessary in order to maximize the beneficial impact of South-South cooperation.

21. In order to meet present and future challenges, the need for countries to forge new partnerships was emphasized. It was also suggested that multi-stakeholder

efforts involving non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society should be increased for greater impact of South-South measures.

22. Innovative financing mechanisms for South-South cooperation were noted as instruments to promote South-South cooperation, and delegations called for their enhancement. Delegations further highlighted their commitment to South-South cooperation by pointing to their continued contribution to such South-South efforts as the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund and the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum and its Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation.

23. Throughout the debate, Member States noted that the 2009 High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi, and its significant outcome document contributed not only to strengthening and further invigorating South-South cooperation, but also to promoting integrated policies guaranteeing mutual respect, equity, cooperation and development among States. Thus, a number of delegations urged the full, effective implementation of the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document to help to intensify efforts towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals.

24. Additionally, there were calls for greater political commitment in order to overcome the implementation gap that had plagued efforts to follow up on the recommendations of major United Nations conferences in the economic and social arenas. Delegations emphasized the importance of political will by all parties in order to fulfil the commitments and actions to achieve real progress in implementing the decisions in the Nairobi outcome document. Towards this end, a number of delegations noted the need for the preparation of a strategic framework for implementation in which the commitments of the Nairobi outcome document would be time-bound and measurable and that would include ways of ensuring transparency and accountability. Some Member States also requested that the framework of operational guidelines for the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes be made clearer and easier to interpret and implement. Some delegations pointed to the need for further triangular cooperation in order to achieve the goals defined in the outcome document.

25. Delegations reiterated their appreciation for the initiatives taken by United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes to establish, within their respective mandates, new units and work programmes to support and promote South-South cooperation. A number of delegations stressed the important role of the United Nations in supporting South-South cooperation, including through financial support. They reiterated the call made in the Nairobi outcome document for the United Nations to take concrete measures to mainstream and streamline support for South-South and triangular cooperation throughout the United Nations system, ensuring effective coordination and consistency. That mainstreaming across the United Nations system, it was argued by one delegation, would serve as a catalyst to combat many global issues, including HIV/AIDS. Another delegation urged the inclusion of elements of South-South cooperation in all United Nations activities and treaties, including those concerning international security.

26. Some Member States saw the role of the United Nations in South-South cooperation from a capacity-building perspective and called upon the United Nations system to conduct research to identify areas where support for South-South cooperation would have the greatest impact. Delegations also stressed that the

United Nations could play a prominent role in support of South-South cooperation by promoting capacity development.

27. Some delegations called on the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes to enhance the capacities of developing countries and strengthen the capacities of regional and subregional organizations. It was noted that strengthening regional integration and improving networking among and across members of regional blocs would greatly benefit South-South cooperation efforts by enhancing regional and interregional cooperation. Delegations also called on the regional commissions to promote South-South and triangular cooperation through strengthening their technical, policy and research support for countries of their regions, indicating that the commissions could play a catalytic role in that regard.

28. UNDP, as the development arm of the United Nations system, was recognized by some delegations as central to the promotion of the decisions of the Nairobi outcome document, given the fact that the organization was well-positioned to assist the South in developing a framework and monitoring its implementation. Some Member States urged UNDP to expand its budget and maintain a strong field presence in developing countries, including middle-income countries, in order to foster an effective network of resident coordinators capable of providing direct support to South-South and triangular projects. Such efforts would enable UNDP to make more extensive use of the institutional capacities, policies, expertise and concrete experiences originating in developing countries. Increased involvement of the United Nations resident coordinator system in South-South efforts was needed so as to enable the United Nations system to be more responsive to specific country needs and to aid in the exchange of experience and in capacity-building.

29. A number of Member States made statements regarding the role of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. Several delegations commended the Special Unit for vigorously promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation globally and throughout the United Nations system. The importance of the Special Unit as a coordinating entity for mainstreaming South-South efforts among members of the United Nations system as well as for promoting and facilitating cooperation between developing and developed countries was emphasized. Delegations expressed confidence in the essential role of the Special Unit in the formulation of a guiding framework towards the implementation of the decisions of the Nairobi outcome document and called for the effective implementation of the fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (2009-2011) as endorsed by the Executive Board of UNDP/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Delegations also congratulated and endorsed the efforts of the Special Unit to facilitate the sharing and exchange of best practices and experiences in development, particularly through its successful launch and establishment of the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange and the Global South-South Development Expo, and commended the development of the Global South-South Development Academy. The assistance of the Special Unit was requested to help developing countries in responding to the current development challenges facing the South.

30. Some delegations, recognizing the special role of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, reiterated the need for more resources, both human and financial, for the Special Unit and invited the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA to strengthen the Special Unit accordingly and ensure that it would play a central role

in South-South cooperation within the United Nations system, including through its role as the system-wide coordinator for South-South cooperation.

31. Some Member States welcomed the forthcoming High-level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development to be hosted by Colombia in March 2010, stating that the Event offered an important occasion to carry forward discussions on the principles of aid effectiveness and the practices of South-South cooperation. Other countries emphasized that the principles of aid effectiveness are not applicable in the context of South-South cooperation.

32. Some delegations also emphasized the importance of making a commitment to the global development agenda through support to the preparatory process leading up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Istanbul, in 2011.

33. Several delegations expressed support for the Government and people of Haiti following the recent earthquake on 12 January 2010 and pledged to provid assistance not only in the form of humanitarian aid, but also in South-Sout technical cooperation. That assistance was greatly needed and appreciated by the Government of Haiti, and the efforts of the South that rushed aid to Haiti were a sign of solidarity in line with the principles in the Nairobi outcome document. Further aid, in the form of technology transfers and support for capacity-building by the United Nations system, was also vital to the reconstruction efforts. It was hoped that those reconstruction efforts would aim to ensure sustainability and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in order to establish the necessary conditions for the promotion of sustainable economic and social development in Haiti.

Chapter III
Report of the Working Group

34. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February 2010, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation considered item 3 of its agenda.

35. The Chairman-cum-Rapporteur of the Working Group and Vice-President of the Committee introduced the report of the Working Group.

36. The Committee adopted the report of the Working Group.

Chapter IV

Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Committee

37. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February 2010, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation considered items 4 and 5 of its agenda.

38. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its seventeenth session (see chap. I, decision 16/2).

39. By the same decision, the Committee authorized its President to consult with the representatives of Member States on the thematic discussion for the seventeenth session and to communicate the decision taken based on those consultations to Member States in advance of the seventeenth session in order to enable delegates to take appropriate preparatory actions.

Chapter V
Draft report

40. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February 2010, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation considered item 6 of its agenda.

41. The Rapporteur, Jimmy Blas (Philippines), introduced the draft report of the Committee.

42. The Committee adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VI
Closure of the session

43. At its 2nd meeting, on 4 February 2010, a closing statement was made by the President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

Chapter VII
Organizational matters

A. Date and place of the session

44. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation held its sixteenth session at United Nations Headquarters on 4 February 2010. The Committee held two meetings, in the morning and the afternoon of 4 February 2010. The Committee also held its organizational meeting on 21 January 2010.

45. The establishment, background, history, chronology and reports of previous sessions of the Committee are contained in the reports of the Committee to the General Assembly.[5]

46. In accordance with paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 35/202, the session was convened by the Administrator of UNDP under the usual procedural arrangements.

B. Attendance

47. The sixteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations participating in UNDP. Also attending were non-member States maintaining a permanent observer mission at headquarters; regional commissions; United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other entities; intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly; and intergovernmental organizations attending as observers. For a list of those attending the sixteenth session, see annex I.

C. Election of officers

48. The following officers were elected by acclamation:

President:

Zachary D. Muburi Muita (Kenya)

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[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39* and corrigendum (A/35/39 and Corr.1); ibid., *Thirty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/36/39); ibid., *Thirty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/38/39); ibid., *Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/40/39); ibid., *Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/42/39); ibid., *Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/44/39); ibid., *Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/46/39); ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/48/39); ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/50/39); ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/52/39); ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/54/39); ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/56/39); ibid., *Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/58/39); ibid., *Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/60/39); and ibid., *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/62/39).

Vice-Presidents:
Ysabel Blanco (Canada)
Raymond Landveld (Suriname)
Petrika Jorgji (Albania)

Rapporteur:
Jimmy D. Blas (Philippines)

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

49. The High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation held its organizational meeting in New York on 21 January 2010 to elect the Bureau of the sixteenth session and to adopt the provisional agenda and programme of work.

50. The Committee adopted the provisional annotated agenda (SSC/16/L.2) and organization of work (SSC/16/L.3) for its sixteenth session. A general debate was held in the plenary on the morning and the afternoon of 4 February 2010. The Working Group was assigned agenda items 2 and 3 for substantive discussion and charged with making recommendations to the Committee. The list of documents before the Committee at its sixteenth session is contained in annex II.

Annex I

List of those attending the sixteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

States Members of the United Nations or States participating in the United Nations Development Programme

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia

United Nations bodies, funds and programmes

United Nations Development Programme

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization, International Monetary Fund, World Health Organization, World Tourism Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

Gulf Cooperation Council, International Organization for Migration, Partners in Population and Development

Non-governmental and other organizations invited to participate as observers

Palestine

Annex II

List of documents before the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its sixteenth session

Provisional agenda and annotations for the organizational meeting held in New York on 21 January 2010 (SSC/16/L.1).

Provisional annotated agenda and list of documents for the sixteenth session (SSC/16/L.2).

Note by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the adoption of the agenda and organization of work (SSC/16/L.3).

Report of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/CONF.215/2).

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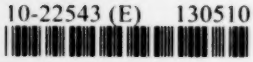

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